

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /080 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3916
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MSOCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0307

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE, UR, US
SUBJECT: STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG ON GDR, FRG/USSR RELATIONS

1. STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG, WHO AS NEW STATE SECRETARY
IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS RETAINING HIS POSITION AS FRG
PLENIPOTENTIARY IN BERLIN, TOLD VISITING BONN EMBASSY
POLITICAL COUNSELOR SMYSER AND MISOFF JAN 28 THAT HE
DETECTED CONFUSION AND INDECISION IN GDR POLICY-MAKING.
SPANGENBERG MENTIONED THREE PRIME ELEMENTS IN GDR PROBLEMS.
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OCCASIONED PRIMARILY BY RISING
ENERGY PRICES, WORKER DISSATISFACTION AS WAGE INCREASES
WERE INCREASINGLY PERCEIVED TO BE NEGATED BY TAX INCREASES,
AND MOBILIZING OF DISSIDENT SENTIMENT AROUND SOME INTELEC-
TUALS, NOTABLY RAINER KUNZE AND VOLKER BRAUN. EVENTS IN
POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND THE USSR ALSO PLAYED THEIR
PART IN THIS PICTURE OF INCREASING FERMENT WITHIN GDR.
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AS ALWAYS, SPANGENBERG WAS CAREFUL TO SAY HE DID NOT
EXPECT AN EXPLOSION, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT
ENTIRELY THAT POSSIBILITY.

2. WITHIN GDR HIERARCHY, SPANGENBERG FELT THAT
HONECKER REMAINED THE ABLE MODERATE TACTICAN AT THE
TOP BUT HAD HAD INCREASING DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING

POLICIES PAST THE HARD-LINE PHALAN OF AXEN, NORDEN, LAMBERZ, AND MIELKE. RESULT HAD BEEN A FAILURE OF SED TO MAKE INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE TO BEZIRK CADRES. FOR EXAMPLE, GDR TEACHERS HAD STARTED 1976-1977 SCHOOL YEAR WITHOUT CUSTOMARY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WHAT TO TELL STUDENTS WOULD HAPPEN IN COUNTRY DURING COMING ACADEMIC YEAR. BEZIRK OFFICIALS RECEIVING REQUEST FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND EMIGRATION DID NOT KNOW HOW TO RESPOND, APPARENTLY BEING UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN WHAT CAME NATURALLY TO THEM: REPRESSION AND THREATS. GDR CITIZENS IN MEANTIME WERE EVEN LESS AFRAID OF GDR BUREAUCRACY, INCLUDING THOSE IN UNIFORM. THUS, THEY POUNDED ON TABLES IN BEZIRK OFFICES AND WENT RIGHT ON VISITING FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION EVEN WHEN THEY HAD TO SHOW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AFTERWARDS. CLIMANT ENGENDERED BY CSCE AND CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES HAD CHANGED ATMOSPHERE IN GDR. (TAGESSPIEGEL'S BOELKE ALSO MENTIONED AT LATER LUNCH APPARENT ABSENCE OF CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AT LOCAL SED HEADQUARTERS.)

3. SPANGENBERG THOUGHT USSR HAD DECIDED TO GIVE GDR LIMITED MANEUVER ROOM IN ITS DEALINGS WITH FRG WHICH GDR HAD USED IN ENACTING RECENT MEASURES TENDING TO INCORPORATE EAST BERLIN MORE FULLY INTO GDR. HE FELT THAT FRG/USSR RELATIONS WERE ON A DECLINE, WITH FALIN APPARENTLY ONE OF THE LAST SOVIET CHAMPIONS OF DETENTE. WHILE HE THOUGHT FRG WAS FAR FROM BLAMELESS IN CURRENT HASSLE ABOUT BREZHNEV'S VISIT, HE ARGUED

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AS HE HAS BEFORE THAT FOR BREZHNEV TO COME EMPTY-HANDED WOULD MEAN TO SEE THE TRIP OVER-SHADOWED ENTIRELY BY PRESS POLEMICS ABOUT LACK OF SUBSTANCE IN FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS.

4.COMMENT: SPANGENBERG IS ONE OF GERMAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS WHO RETAINS CLOSE CONTACT TO RELATIVES AND OTHER PERSONS IN GDR. DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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